

Annual Report



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*Governor's Appointee



NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As I retire from the Hawai'i Council for the Humanities, I find myself reflecting on how much the still, small voice of the humanities means to us as we tell our stories and make sense of our world. I feel so privileged to have been here for most of my professional career, fifteen years as executive director and twenty years as program officer. We have been through a lot together. Next year, HCH will have a brilliant new director, with his or her own vision of the humanities to share with you, and the great opportunity to learn from all of you as I have.

It has been an honor to have worked with so many wonderful colleagues and partners, near and far, over the years.

Through your wisdom, creativity and wonder, I have witnessed first-hand how the great truths in yesterday's answers are set by today's questions, how asking the big questions is an activity of mind and spirit fundamental to our very human nature. And, because there is no end to either the stories or the questions, I leave with the greatest hope for and belief in the future of the public humanities in Hawai'i.

Looking back, I have most loved watching thousands of young historians ask penetrating and honest questions as they explore the meaning of history through Hawai'i History Day, sometimes with outrage, sometimes with great admiration, but never with the dead neutrality of dates and facts. I have appreciated creating partnerships like "Film For Thought" at the Hawai'i International Film Festival, and for our bringing humanities programs to you and our local communities around the state with workshops, discussions, festivals and other gatherings. Most recently, I watched a vibrant new HCH reading and discussion program, "Try Think," come to life to expand our humanities outreach in the prisons to new levels of civic engagement and cultural awareness.

Our work together over the years has been most meaningful and dear to me. Thank you for your dedication to connecting people with ideas that broaden perspectives, enrich lives, and strengthen our communities. I am absolutely sure the way forward will be equally blessed, grateful for today and hopeful for tomorrow. Ho'omalalama.

Bob Buss
HCH Executive Director
November 2018



The Hawaiian fish hook database project at the Bishop Museum was supported by an HCH grant.



2017 participants were happy to represent Hawai'i at National History Day.



On the cover:
Understanding Civic Power – Immigration in Hawai'i
public humanities program.

